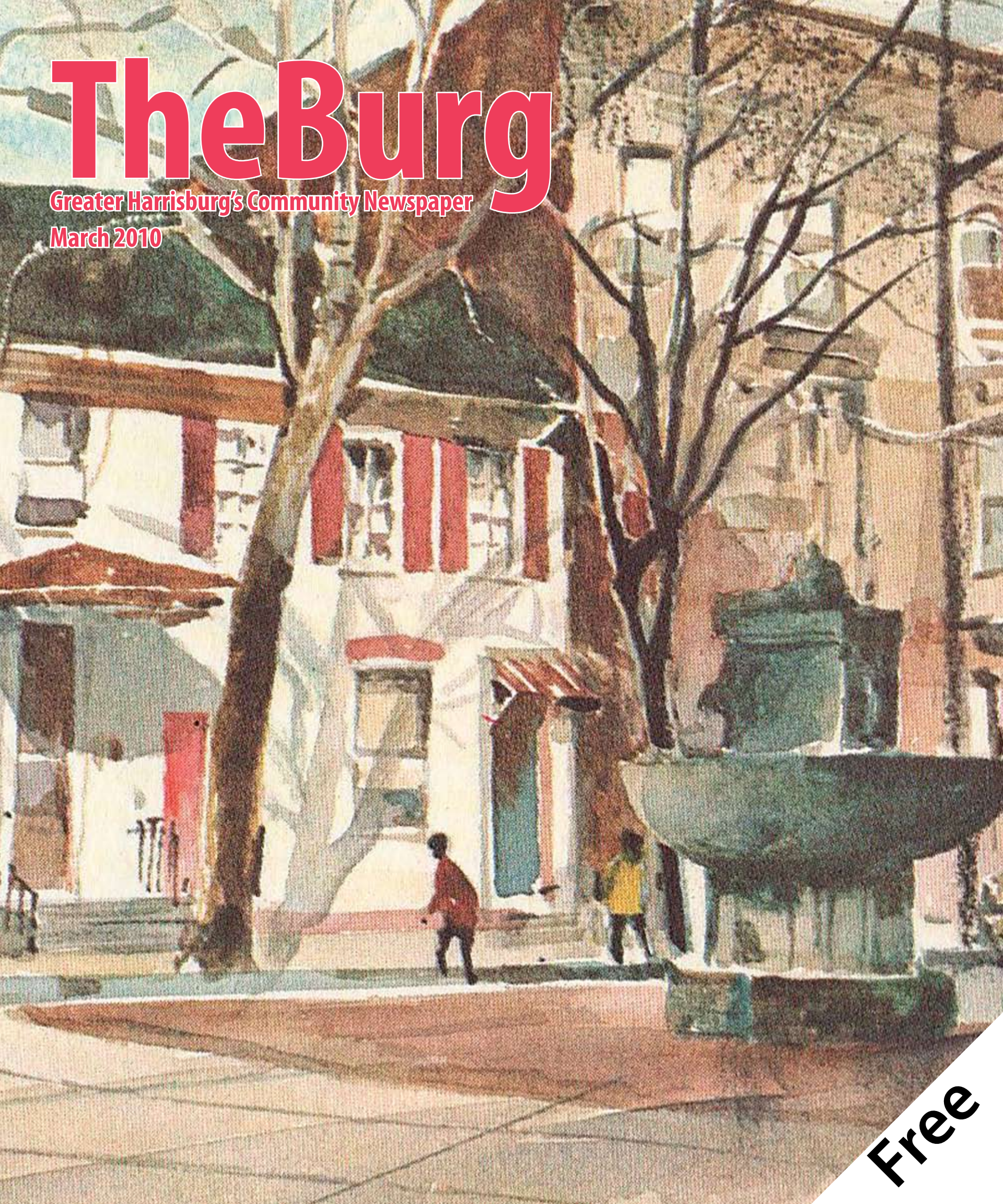


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March 2010



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Sun Also Rises

Harrisburg's municipal budget woes, as well as the country's troubles both political and economic, appear immense and unsolvable at the moment. But it's exactly at this moment when, fortified by hope, you press forward, regardless of the obstacles.

"The darkest hour is just before the dawn," goes the old proverb, and despite budget shortfalls and a sputtering economy, things are not hopeless. Eventually, City Council, Mayor Linda Thompson and City Controller Dan Miller are going to reach a solution, though it's unlikely to be pretty or painless.

Meanwhile, the community is moving forward. On Mt. Pleasant in South Allison Hill, an urban renewal group is building stylish new homes to once again create an established neighborhood where today a majority of the area's inhabitants are transient. ("Old Neighborhood, New Community," p. 8.)

New businesses continue to open downtown and around town, and in Midtown, the 102-year-old Furlow Building, vacant and long awaiting an owner and a transformation, is poised to get both from GreenWorks Development, which also plans to finish the Capitol Heights townhouse development between 3rd and 5th streets.

So, while the city sails through troubled waters, there are at least glimmers of hope for its future. It may be darkest before the dawn, but then the sun also rises.

This month's cover:

*"Allison Hill," Harrisburg.
Painting by Nick T. Ruggieri,
circa 1970*



Letters

Nice February issue of TheBurg. I especially liked the coverage of the 3rd in The Burg series.

The p. 7 article on commercial real estate was insightful ("Commercial Realty: Less Boom, More Bust"). However, I wanted to point out the math in the last few paragraphs doesn't quite work out that way. It's more like this:

- Owner's equity is otherwise known as "residual value." In the example, the owner buys a \$10 million property, putting in \$2 million and borrowing \$8 million from a bank. The bank's \$8 million lien takes precedence over the owner's equity, irrespective of whether the property value rises or falls—that is, all of the bank's \$8 million is in line ahead of the owner's equity. So, if the value goes up higher than the \$10 million purchase price, the owner gets all the appreciation; conversely, if it goes down, the owner's equity (if any) absorbs the devaluation.

- If the property value had dropped to \$8 million, the owner's equity would be wiped out because the bank gets its \$8 million back first. The owner would have zero equity, not \$1.6 million as in the article.

- It doesn't stop there. A typical 5-year term note would require principal and interest payments. So assuming a 7 percent interest rate and a 20-year amortization, (assuming the owner made all payments on time) at the end of 5 years of ownership, the actual debt principal outstanding would no longer be \$8 million—it would be \$6.9 million. Thus, the owner would have \$1.1 million in equity, and therefore would have to come

up with an additional \$1.7 million to meet the 35 percent owner's contribution necessary to re-finance.

I hope you find this explanation helpful. Of course, this example really simplifies the issue into a math problem, whereas in reality there are several more factors influencing the marketplace.

H. Ralph Vartan
Chairman & CEO, Vartan Group
Harrisburg

Bravo to TheBurg for the Street Corners section! It's an innovative idea with great potential to inform more people about significant spots around the city. Too often attention is given to the same ole places, but this section serves to highlight sites that tend to get overlooked.

This section of the January issue highlights a site in Engleton ("Crossroads of a Renaissance," p.9). I was delighted to be included in this article. However, I'd like to make a clarification. I was identified as "the founder" of the Engleton Community Group (ECG).

While I'm very involved in ECG, I'm not the founder. This particular group evolved from a long tradition of Engleton residents working together, and in its present formation, was initiated and developed by several people. Since its beginning, ECG has been organized by a team of us doing our best to effectively provide a service to the neighborhood. I'd be remiss not to point this out.

Tara Leo Auchey
Harrisburg

Letters have been edited for length, grammar and style.



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City Budget Passed; No Tax Hikes in Plan

Harrisburg finally has a budget for the 2010 fiscal year, one that does not increase taxes or fees.

The City Council recently passed the \$64 million spending measure, rejecting proposals to raise water rates and property taxes.

Instead, the council slashed expenses, reducing the amount proposed for severance payments, refusing to fund numerous vacant city posts and rejecting several new administrative positions. They also capped annual salaries at \$76,000 for most administrative staff.

The changes revised a budget by Mayor Linda Thompson, who had substantially changed the initial plan by former Mayor Stephen Reed.

Notably, the council rejected a proposal by Thompson to include \$68 million in the budget to cover debt payments tied to the municipal incinerator. Instead, the narrowly divided council decided to keep the debt service outside of the budget.

Harrisburg faces numerous unpleasant options due to the staggering incinerator debt, which it has guaranteed. Most likely, the city will have to sell significant municipal assets, and the council approved an expense of \$500,000 for asset appraisal and possible sale.

The city also could declare Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy or, avoiding bankruptcy, try to reduce its debt burden by negotiating with creditors under the state's "Act 47" distressed city provision.

City Drivers: Put Down the Cell Phone

Driver's beware: Harrisburg's cell phone ban goes into effect this month.

As of March 1, drivers are prohibited from using a cell phone unless they employ a "hands-free" device that permits them to maintain two hands on the steering wheel while talking.

Penalties are as follows: first offense, \$100; second offense, \$250; third offense, \$500; fourth offense (and any subsequent offense or a violation that results in an automobile accident, bodily harm or damage to property), \$1,000. Fines are doubled for violations occurring in a designated active work zone or school zone.

Exceptions to this ordinance include calls made by law enforcement and emergency personnel in the course of performing their jobs, drivers making emergency phone calls and drivers whose cars are parked and not in gear.

Community Meeting

Harrisburg will hold another of a series of community meetings to discuss its plan for federal housing and community development funds for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

This meeting will be March 3, 5:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club, 1227 Berryhill St.

Landmark Building on Deck for Rehab

Midtown is poised for more growth, with the planned restoration of the long-vacant Furlow Building and the completion of the Capitol Heights townhouse development.

GreenWorks Development plans to restore the six-story Furlow Building, 1224 N. 3rd St., into residential units with commercial and retail space on the first floor.

Dan Deitchman, developer of Front Street's Riverview Manor, is GreenWorks' partner on the project. The Furlow Building, built in 1908, has been vacant nearly 30 years.

The restoration is contingent on the project's feasibility. The Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority allows developers to determine whether a project is viable before committing to the sale.

Greenworks also will begin finishing the 94 undeveloped lots in the Capitol Heights development between 3rd and 5th streets with minority partner C. William Struever, head of Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse, the original developer of the project in which 133 homes have been completed and sold.



Furlow Building

They're Back: Falcons Nest Another Year

In an annual sign that spring is upon us in Harrisburg, a pair of peregrine falcons have begun nesting high atop the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

This marks the sixth straight year that falcons have nested at this location. The female has mated with two different males over the years, producing numerous young.

In the past, the female has laid about five eggs, which hatch in mid-May.

Want to view the falcons in real time? Go to the PA Falcon Cam at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon/default.htm>.

Southern Gateway Stalled for Now

Harrisburg's "Southern Gateway" plan took a hit recently as the federal government turned down a \$98 million grant request to get the project off the ground.

The plan envisions redeveloping the entry to the city at the southern end of downtown. The city had applied for the grant last year, an effort to secure economic stimulus funds available through the federal Department of Transportation.

Did you know ...

... The Susquehanna River originates in Lake Otsego, New York?

... In its early years, the city was spelled "Harrisburgh"?

... The YWCA of Greater Harrisburg was built in the 1850s and '60s as a mansion by businessman John Brant, who soon sold it to the Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg?



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Repair Shop around the Corner

Peiffer Auto makes a U-turn, returns to the city.

Peter Durantine

Three years ago, Troy and Laura Peiffer were running their auto repair business along Route 230 near Middletown when they decided to move their operations into the city at the corner of Maclay and 3rd streets.

Since then, Peiffer Auto Repair has become a fixture in the neighborhood. The Peiffers provide a service vital for any healthy community: a nearby, quality garage that residents and businesses alike know and trust.

"I think everybody trusts us, and I like that everybody says, 'Go down to see my guy on the corner,'" Troy said one afternoon. "It's a very gratifying feeling knowing that people trust you."

For customer Connell O'Brien, a policy specialist with the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association on Front Street, Peiffer's fairness is unquestionable.

"One of the things I was desperate to find was a reliable, capable, honest—honest—mechanic," said O'Brien, who commutes from Ephrata. "They take care of my vehicle, and they do it in just a reliable way."

Troy, 31, has worked on automobile engines since he was young enough to hold a wrench, learning from his father, Troy Sr., who had long owned the repair shop. That's where Troy, a certified mechanic, learned his trade.

The senior Peiffer started his auto repair business about 20 years ago. For a time, he was located off Derry Street on South Allison Hill. The shop re-located a couple of times around the region, chasing opportunity.

Since taking over three years ago, Troy and Laura have built on what his 49-year-old father, who keeps a hand in helping and advising, started.



Car guy: Troy Peiffer moved the family garage back to Harrisburg, where it had begun a couple of decades ago.

Before they bought the garage on Maclay, it had sat empty for two years, though it was in good condition, except for the parking lot, which Troy plans to re-pave. They apparently were a welcome relief for the neighborhood.

"Things really took off," Troy said. "It's a good location, and we treat people fairly. That's the biggest thing in this industry—getting people to trust you."

While Troy does the mechanic work, Laura, 26, does the bookkeeping, which she said she enjoys as much as her husband enjoys working on engines.

"We love working together," she

said. "We're a very good team. We work better together than apart."

The Peiffers like to keep family in the business. Of the two mechanics on staff, one is Troy's cousin; the other, an old friend.

"It's all family here," Troy said. "I don't just hire anybody off the street."

Among their clientele is The Nature Conservancy, located a few blocks away on Front Street. Peiffer services its fleet of vehicles.

"They're very personable," said Jessica Seminara, The Nature Conservancy's program coordinator. "They know us by name and are willing to check things out for us if we have an issue. I also like it because they're close by."

The Peiffers also do snow removal, an enormous opportunity this past winter, as well as landscaping. Their primary business, though, is being a full-service garage in the city.

"We look forward to growing with the city," Laura said.

Peiffer Auto Repair, 301 Maclay St., Harrisburg, 717-236-3020

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Is It Worth It?

For re-sale value, not all home improvements are created equal.

Ray Davis

Frequently I get calls from clients asking for my opinion about the return on investment from certain improvements they are considering making to their homes.

Some homeowners will only spend money on improvements to their home if they are certain they will recoup their cost when they are ready to sell.

Others are not as concerned about return on investment as much as increasing the overall appeal or saleability of their home when the time comes. Additionally, there are those who live for the moment, and personalize their home for their own enjoyment without much concern about resale.

The real estate market is a regional one—and ever-changing. For example, in certain parts of the country, ceramic tile floors are much more desirable than wood. Certainly, it is impossible to predict how a buyer will respond to granite vs. solid surface countertops five years from now.

Judicious home remodeling is still worth the investment according to Remodeling Magazine's annual "Cost vs. Value Report".

Despite a sluggish market and a slight decrease in the resale value of most remodeling projects, realtors surveyed across the country

agreed that the smartest home improvement investments may also be some of the least expensive.

In many cases, small scale exterior projects are the most profitable at resale. These improvements include items such as certain types of door and siding replacement, as well as wood deck additions, which all returned more than 80 percent of project costs at resale. Window replacement generally yields a return in excess of 75 percent of investment. This once again proves the importance of curb appeal and the importance of lower maintenance improvements.

In our region, an attic bedroom addition yields an 80 percent-plus return on investment. This reinforces the fact that today's buyers are looking for the largest amount of living space for their dollar.

Additional data confirms the value of upgrading kitchens and baths. Homeowners will, however, recoup the greatest share of their costs by foregoing super-deluxe projects in favor of mid-range remodels.

If you are looking for low-cost, big impact remodeling projects, consider the following:

- Update your kitchen by giving cabinets a facelift with new

hardware and installing rollout organizing trays. Add or update a tile backsplash and new countertops. If you want to install granite, consider granite tiles rather than a slab to make the job more economical. If you have a wall between your kitchen and family room, consider cutting an opening and adding a breakfast bar. Minor kitchen remodels can recoup about 78 percent of investment.

- Spruce up your bathroom by replacing the vanity, medicine cabinet and light fixtures. Regrouting old tile can make it look new, and a new glass shower door will detract from old tile too. Minor bathroom remodels generally yield about 70 percent return.

- Freshen up your basement with a coat of waterproofing paint and a good floor paint. Although the basement is not "finished," it is no longer a dark, damp dungeon and can be used for exercise, special projects, etc.

It has always been my opinion that major additions to homes should be considered very carefully. A homeowner might enlarge a modest kitchen and transform it into a fabulous gourmet kitchen, but, when it is time to sell, if the home has just two or three modest

bedrooms, the kitchen will lose its appeal to buyers who do not spend a lot of time in the kitchen and might prefer a luxurious master suite.

To read full project descriptions and access national and regional project data, visit www.costvsvalue.com.



Ray Davis is a real estate salesperson with RE/MAX Realty Associates, Inc. He has lived in Harrisburg since 1986 and has been a realtor for 17 years. 717-441-5608 or rdavis@capitalareahomes.com

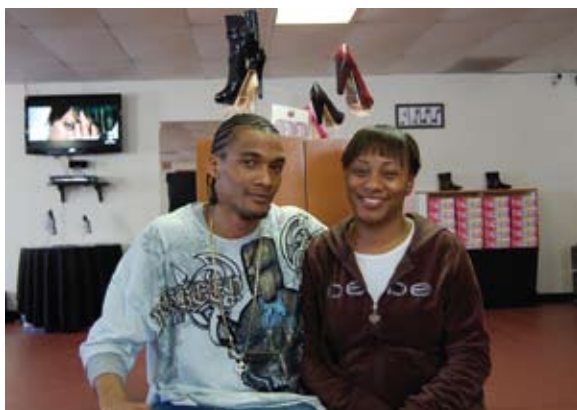
Hershey Med Center to Open in Camp Hill

Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Health System is opening a medical practice at 3025 Market St. in Camp Hill.

Spokesman Sean Young said the center plans to open the office sometime this summer.

In addition, the Medical Center recently announced it raised \$10.1 million in pledges and gifts in December 2009, the largest amount secured in December of any year in its history.

New Business Opens



Well-heeled: Floyd and Samara Scott have opened a women's and girl's fashion shoe shop, A Sole Connection, at 724 S. Cameron St. in Harrisburg. They also sell accessories such as handbags. To reach them, call 717-724-4899 or www.asolection.com.

Changing Hands: January Property Sales

Bellevue Rd., 1932: \$26,450	Jefferson St., 2335: \$42,500	Rumson Dr., 2948: \$89,500
Boas St., 1815: \$29,000	Logan St., 2248: \$62,000	S. 12th St., 1456: \$87,000
Briggs St., 1925: \$24,500	Marion St., 1321: \$79,900	S. 19th St., 217: \$23,000
Catherine St., 1509: \$41,500	N. 2nd St., 2009: \$75,000	Swatara St., 2134: \$31,500
Fillmore St., 620: \$74,000	N. 3rd St., 2209: \$77,930	Verbeke St., 217: \$146,500
Forster St., 1612: \$60,000	N. 18th St., 606: \$92,000	Walnut St., 1725: \$28,000
Green St., 1201: \$180,000	N. 18th St., 615: \$55,000	Whitehall St., 1937: \$33,000
Green St., 2211: \$52,500	N. 20th St., 805: \$21,000	Zarker St., 1919: \$42,000
Green St., 2424: \$74,000	Penn St., 1334: \$101,500	
Harris St., 434: \$143,000	Penn St., 2113: \$32,500	Source: Dauphin County, property sales for City of Harrisburg, transactions greater than \$20,000. All data is deemed to be accurate.
Herr St., 1845: \$59,000	Reel St., 2406: \$20,000	
Holly St., 2002: \$34,000	Rudy Rd., 1957: \$24,000	

Old Neighborhood, New Community

Affordable, yet stylish homes transform Mount Pleasant corner.

Peter Durantine



The intersection of Swatara and 16th is busy with residential construction, including a zero-net energy use home (far right).

An empty lot stands at the northeast corner of Swatara and S. 16th streets on South Allison Hill, while, at the southeast corner, an abandoned house has been marked for a fate that could either be rehabilitation or demolition.

But at the opposite corners are clear signs of hope and optimism for a neighborhood that had been left to deteriorate by negligent landlords or homeowners without means to maintain their properties.

Five new homes, including a zero-net energy use home, went up on the intersection's western side last year. Eight more will soon

be under construction, and, when the development known as Mount Pleasant Homes is completed, there will be families living in 25 single-family homes.

Moreover, the neighborhood should by then be well into its transformation

from an area of mostly blighted or abandoned homes to what the not-for-profit developer, Tri-County HDC Ltd., hopes is a flourishing community of mixed incomes and racial and ethnic diversity.

"What a lot of experts agree on, and which is our goal, is that mixed-income neighborhoods are more sustainable," said Becky Vogel, deputy director of Tri-County Housing Development Corp., located on Derry Street, about a block from Swatara and 16th.

Since 1990, Tri-County, working with the city and the Community

Action Commission, has taken blighted homes around South Allison Hill—on Derry, 17th, 13th and Market streets—gutted them and rebuilt the interiors.

"It's the worst of the worst homes—that's what we do," Vogel said. "Our guys are particularly good at historic rehabilitation."

Mount Pleasant Homes, which took three years to put together the federal, state and local funding, has the same purpose in mind—turn houses into owner-occupied homes, not rentals that attract more transients than people wanting to put down roots.

"Having residents who are committed to the neighborhood is important," said Jason Rissler, the weed-and-seed coordinator at YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, located on South Allison Hill.

One problem in creating a stable neighborhood has been the community's large transient population. More than 50 percent of those living on South Allison Hill today moved into the neighborhood over the last five years, Rissler said, noting people need to have a stake in the community for it to work.

"We have an increasing number of homeowners—and renters—who are committed to the neighborhood," he said.

The South Allison Hill Residents Association meets every third Wednesday of the month, and, Rissler said, attendance usually numbers 30 to 40 people. Separate to Tri-County's efforts, Habitat for Humanity also has built new homes on South Allison Hill around 13th and Market streets, but the new homes at Swatara and 16th are clearly aiming to attract middle-income earners.

"First and foremost, homeownership is a stabilizing factor in any community revitalization effort," said Alfred



The lovely interior of the zero-energy house.

Worley, executive director of the Community Action Commission. "There is a responsibility to maintain the home, and the homeowner has a stake in what happens in the community."

The four-bedroom homes range in price starting at \$124,900. The three-bedroom, zero-net green home goes for \$159,900, though all the homes are built as low-energy users with a square-footage range of around 1,600 square feet. All homes have one full and two half-baths.

As an incentive, buyers pay no city, county or school district real estate taxes for the first three years, with gradual increases after that until year 10.

Two homes are under contract, but, in these economic times, it has been hard to make a sale, Vogel said.

"The majority of the folks who expressed interest in the homes have been unable to secure a mortgage," she said.

Nonetheless, Mount Pleasant Homes is a step toward attracting new homeowners with a stake in the community.

"People want more homeowners in the neighborhood because they believe that will improve the neighborhood and be a building block for the future of the neighborhood," Vogel said.

"Intersections" is an occasional feature profiling street corners, corridors and the people who live there.

Hear the Pipes



Harrisburg's St. Patrick's Day parade steps off on Saturday, March 20 at 2 p.m., marching through downtown. Wear the green and show your pride!

Anniversary of a Landmark

As the city marks 150 years, so does the Market Square Church.

John L. Taylor

As Harrisburg celebrates its sesquicentennial, so, too, does one of the city's most familiar landmarks, Market Square Presbyterian Church.

For 150 years, the red-brick church with brownstone trim has occupied the southwest corner of the square, its gray spire reaching 193 feet above Harrisburg's center of commerce and government. Coincidentally, the church's formal dedication on March 18, 1860, preceded by one day Harrisburg's incorporation as a city.

Because of its large size and central location, the church not only has functioned as a house of worship, but also as a concert hall and a meeting place for a wide variety of community functions. It was here in 1869 that the Dauphin County Historical Society was organized.

It also has served as a center of outreach for a number of help programs. It currently houses the International Service Center, an organization that provides assistance to immigrants trying to adjust to their new lives in the United States.

And its Westminster chimes through the years have marked the passing of time in the everyday hustle-bustle of the downtown business district.

"Our 150th birthday is certainly an occasion to celebrate, and we plan to do just that," said The Rev. James D. Brown, senior pastor of Market Square Church since 1998.

The church is having a re-dedication ceremony March 7. Following a post-service luncheon, Susan Bockius, a design consultant with Willet Hauser Architectural Glass in Philadelphia, will talk about the church's century-old stained-glass windows.

In its early years, the church's tapering spire made it the tallest building between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and caused a brief work stoppage on the construction project, according to Ken Frew in his recent book, "Building Harrisburg."

Although Market Square has changed dramatically over the years, the church has remained the one constant. It is the oldest building situated directly on the square. It traces its organization to 1794, making it the first Presbyterian

congregation in the city. Prior to 1860, the congregation at different times occupied two buildings one block to the south, where Executive House on 2nd Street now stands.

The second building burned on the night of March 30, 1858, and the majority

of the congregation voted to relocate on Market Square. A splinter group decided to build a separate church, which today is Pine Street Presbyterian.

Architect Joseph C. Hoxie of Philadelphia designed the Market Square Church in the Romanesque style with a Gothic steeple. Two turrets adorned the front of the building with a number of minarets on the sides.

Inside, Hoxie fashioned a sanctuary that was marked by its simplicity, with white stucco walls, gray wooden pews, four Corinthian columns gracing the pulpit area and a large choir loft to the rear.

"Hoxie specialized in designing churches and railroad stations, having also designed the Harrisburg station, built in 1857 and demolished in 1877," wrote William Sisson in his 1993 History of Market Square Presbyterian Church.

The first pipe organ was installed in 1872, reconstructed and

enlarged in 1916, replaced in 1946-47 and renovated and expanded in 1990-91. In 2006, several other improvements were made to the interior, including a re-design of the sanctuary lighting.

At the church's dedication in 1860, the Harrisburg Telegraph newspaper commented on "the novel mode of lighting the church, from the ceiling..." The sanctuary was "flooded with a mellow and sufficient light—made by Argand burners, with reflectors, through ground glass circles, 21 in number, in as many panels in the ceiling."

To this day, the church sanctuary is illuminated by recessed lighting in the high ceiling, although electric lights replaced the gas burners in the late 19th century.

Located at 20 S. 2nd St., Market Square Church's service of re-dedication is 11 a.m., Sunday, March 7. Susan Bockius' talk about the stained glass is at 1 p.m. For more, call 717-257-1270 or visit www.marketsquarechurch.org.

M a k i n g I t



Chimenti

For entrepreneur Elizabeth Chimenti, it began with a little business—Happy Hands Will Travel—organizing offices, cleaning

offices and event planning.

She had lost two jobs as an office administrator in 10 years and decided to chart her own career course.

"Negative things are not negative to me," said Chimenti, a Bethlehem native who lives in Etters. "I look at them as opportunities."

But a funny thing happened while cleaning and performing clerical duties in offices around the city—she found a niche as an event

planning specialist.

"Because the event planning was taking off, I decided to push that full force," she said of her business, The Chimenti Touch. "I just love being around people."

Her break came volunteering to help organize a celebrity auction for the Harrisburg Stampede, the city's indoor football franchise that started last year. She's now organizing the team's second auction in April.

Chimenti sees more opportunity coming. She said she's talking to Comcast about doing a radio and TV program to bring "nationwide talent to Harrisburg."

The Chimenti Touch, 717-829-3880, grtlife@frontiernet.net

"Making It" is an occasional feature looking at how local people came to do what they do.



The church, painted gray, circa 1880s (left). In the 1920s, the original red-brick facade was restored, as it remains today (right).

Bike Class as Soulcraft

Recycle Bicycle gives kids guidance, a little push.

Ruth Hoover Seitz

Kids on the street refer to him as “the bike dude.”

His email address, recyclebicycle@verizon.net, reveals what consumes his time. His “office” is The Bike Warehouse, a 15,000-square-foot structure at 821 Elder St., filled with thousands of bike parts and dozens of ready-for-the-road two-wheelers. It is only when you meet Ross Willard that you realize why teens in Harrisburg gravitate towards this knowledgeable, energetic mechanic.

Willard repairs and recycles bicycles. His voice is cheerful and his words positive. “Any kid who needs a bike can earn one. We want every bike to be safe.”

Kids can earn accessories or even a bike by working between one and 20 hours. The non-profit requires that a parent is present when a kid gets a bike.

In one of the local schools, Willard, who retired from 30-plus years on the railroad, offers a course on bicycle repair. The 15-hour curriculum consists of taking a bike apart and then rebuilding every part of it, including the brakes. The bikes are tested in the gym. Whoever successfully completes the course earns a bike that fits his or her physique.

Willard is not only a bike doctor.

He knows what it means to have a cool bike.

Using a miniature bike, Willard teaches the right and safe way to jump a ramp. He explains “not just the mechanics, but the science, the physics behind the mechanics.”

Kids who already own bikes often need repairs. They visit the The Bike Warehouse, space donated by design, build and repair contractors, G.R. Sponaugle & Sons, where a team of volunteers handle bike needs.

Luke Shrader, a senior at Central Dauphin East, repaired lawn mowers and vacuums before he learned bikes. He feels success working on a bike that will go to a kid who didn’t have one. Shrader was brought to the Warehouse by Javian Baker, a church youth leader. Baker believes in the values demonstrated at Recycle Bicycle.

“Here, kids learn a work ethic,” said Baker, recalling that, as a kid, he stole bikes. “Now, I bring young people here to learn to do things for themselves.”

Willard claims that he can train any volunteer. Eager-to-learn teens take precedence. They first learn to strip down bikes. Parts are stored in their respective areas. Jacquan Cousar, a 17-year-old who lives near 18th Street, stripped down bikes for



Ross Willard works on one a bike with 17-year-old volunteer Luke Shrader of Harrisburg.

three weeks, learning to differentiate between useful and junk parts.

Working with the organization since last August, Cousar now diagnoses a bike’s problem by himself. When he is stumped, he consults his mentor, Russ Bahn of Enola. Cousar likes working in the community instead of staying at home taking apart handheld games. He sees Recycle Bicycle as “an all-around organization to help someone. It shows kids there’s something you can do besides be in the streets.”

Recycle Bicycle also services bikes right in city neighborhoods. When its trailer filled with bicycle parts pulls up at a block party or a street fair, kids line up with their wounded bikes. Often, there are 20 or more waiting patiently. Younger kids turn to John Reardon, a grandpa-like retiree who sits on the macadam and talks gently. He’s a real grandkid magnet, Willard says.

When Willard first picks up a bike to diagnose its ills, he gives it a shake to see what’s loose. He then tightens whatever is loose to remove safety hazards. A loose kickstand will

foul the pedals, and loose wheel bearings make the bike wobble. Chains fall off, if the crank bearings are loose.

Every bike has its brakes checked. Often, kids remove brakes because a piece is hanging out.

“We convert trick bike brakes to standard brakes, which work 200 percent better than

stunt bikes.” Willard said, “We save lives by re-routing and shortening the front brake cable and then removing the six-cable rear brake and replacing with a single cable.”

Recycle Bicycle has become a hub for bicycle repair and donations in central Pennsylvania.

Community groups call when bikes are needed. One school bus driver picks bikes out of the trash and delivers them to the Warehouse for parts. Pedal Pushers, a bicycle shop in Harrisburg, discounts the brake cables and pads that the non-profit needs new. Harrisburg Bike Club members volunteer.

Whoever contacts Willard for whatever purpose would agree—“he’s a confidence-builder.” Together, Willard and Recycle Bicycle boost responsibility and generosity.

Recycle Bicycle is always in need of more volunteers. There are a lot of flat tires to fix and small jobs to do. And nothing is more satisfying than making ergonomic adjustments so that a kid can ride more easily and efficiently. Recycle Bicycle will be at the MultiCultural Festival on Berryhill Street on May 15 and at Juneteenth Celebration at the Neighborhood Center, 1801 N. 3rd St., in mid-June. See www.recyclebicycle.info for future events.

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Past Tense

Capitol Park: The Rise and Fall and Rise

Recent work makes park usable, accessible again.

Jason Wilson

At 225 years old and counting, historic Capitol Park has undergone many changes since it was first established.

John Harris gave four acres of ground for the use of the Commonwealth in 1785, but the land remained vacant until the decision to move the capital from Lancaster in 1810. At that time, the legislature bought 10 more acres of ground from Sen. William Maclay. Most of the original buildings and the current Capitol sit on Maclay's original tract.

In 1812, the first two buildings were built, followed by the main Capitol in 1822. Harrisburg's old state arsenal was also built and located on 3rd Street.

Throughout the mid-1800s, improvements were made and benches and brick sidewalks were installed.

In the early 1880s, a Rose House was built where seasonal plantings were grown for landscaping the Capitol grounds. Gas lights were installed at the front of the main buildings by the late 1880s. Two large fountains were also installed at



Photos courtesy Capitol Preservation Committee

Park days past: The 3rd and Walnut street entrance to Capitol Park (left); the Rose House and conservatories (right) featured nearby flower beds that changed seasonally, showing hyacinths in this picture. Both photos are circa 1890s.

the front circular entrance to the old Hill's Capitol.

After the Capitol fire of 1897, the landscape around the building was dramatically altered.

Cobb Capitol, an interim structure for the legislature, quickly sprang up in 1898, and in 1899, the John F. Hartranft statue

was dedicated at the front of the building.

The current Capitol was completed in 1906 and modifications to the immediate exterior area were undertaken.

In the late 1910s, as the Commonwealth began to acquire more land, Capitol Park also began

to change. Wide sidewalks were installed at all street levels and through the park. The Rose House was torn down, and the first electric lights were installed. Numerous trees in the current park date to this time period.

During the 1920s, the Hartranft statue was moved to its current location, in front of the Matthew J. Ryan Building overlooking the park, to make room for a larger main entrance to the Capitol.

Throughout the mid-1900s, Capitol Park remained somewhat static, while the Commonwealth focused attention on the other complex buildings. In the 1970s, street-level sidewalks were removed to make room for parking along 3rd and Walnut. Additionally, plantings and storm water systems were poorly maintained.

Today, a long-term landscape restoration project—the first phase of which has been completed—is returning Capitol Park into the destination that it was when the Capitol was first built.

Then and Now



Harrisburg's Old City Hall, at 5th and Walnut streets, began life in 1910 as a technical high school (left) before being remodeled for use as the city's municipal building in 1928. Today, it's a boutique apartment building, renowned for its grand staircase, ornate lobby and proximity to the Capitol complex (right).

Jason L. Wilson is a research historian for the Capitol Preservation Committee.

From Classroom to Tasting Room

Vintner Salvatore Cullari turned a dream into a dream come true.

Our Wine Guy



Salvatore Cullari serves up tastes and glasses at his winery near Hershey.

The roots already were planted, so to speak, for winemaker Salvatore Cullari, long before he and wife Kathi opened their tasting room and winery in a building along Route 422 outside Hershey.

Born in Caroniti in southern Italy, around where the toe might be atop the country's geographical boot, Cullari and his family soon moved across the Atlantic to the East Coast and began making wine with his father when he was 12.

But it remained a sidelight, the final product shared by friends and

family only. Meanwhile, Cullari took a career route toward education, eventually teaching at Lebanon Valley College for more than 15 years, many as chair for the psychology department.

Then came 9/11, and while Cullari was reaching out to people suffering the effects of that disaster, he found himself in front of his own career mirror.

"It just dawned on me that I was working too much, not really doing what I wanted to do," he said recently. "I think a lot of people made career changes then."

In Cullari's case, it wasn't choosing something new but revitalizing skills that were very old. He had made wine before, but the challenge now was bottling a product that would be sampled and bought by strangers. "It wasn't like something I had to learn to do," he said. "It was just something I had to convert into a commercial venture."

What came out of that

metamorphosis was Cullari Vineyards & Winery, one of the few Harrisburg-area wineries and a member of the Uncork York Wine Trail.

There are two vineyards that provide grapes, located on either side of his home that sits on a 25-acre lot in Derry Township. He began planting the first vineyard around 10 years ago, and then started the second one

in 2007. He grows some grapes with names that are common to wine novices, such as Merlot (he makes a delicious Merlot, by the way) and Cabernet Sauvignon. Some of the others aren't quite as recognizable, such as Sangiovese and Zinfandel.

"I just use [the Zinfandel] for blending," he said. "What probably will happen is that it will get down to [10 below zero] and it will kill everything. Actually, Zinfandel matures well before Merlot and way before Cabernet Sauvignon. But the vines are very sensitive to the cold. I wouldn't tell anyone else to plant Zinfandel because that would be a disservice to them."

But it has worked for him, as has the business. On a recent Friday afternoon, several people wandered in to buy a few bottles. One couple walked out with several cases. What amounts to his first floor includes the tasting bar, several tables with a variety of wine merchandise and a sitting area. Negotiate a few steps, and you can relax in a dining area. On one side of the room is a cabinet with his extensive line of wines, all told around 25 and all reasonably priced in the \$10 to \$16 range.

Cullari admits it isn't necessarily fun tending to the vineyard, and coming off one of the worst growing years in recent memory, who can blame him? He prefers working in the "laboratory," mixing wines until he finds a blend that hits the right spot on his palate. "Our most popular wines are ones I've blended or developed over the years," he said.

One is called White on White, which he said includes Chardonnay and Vidal Blanc, sometimes Catawba, and "then whatever else I want to throw in there. It's basically the same recipe each time" with some subtle changes. "I think the strength of small wineries like mine and most of the others in Pennsylvania is that you can experiment. You know,



A view of the seating area in the tasting room at Cullari Vineyards & Winery.

you just don't want to be another Kendall Jackson, because you don't want to compete with them. You want to be unique."

A more recent release that is flying off the shelves is called Pomegranate Splash, a mix of white wine and pomegranate juice. "It's not sweet. It's not dry," Cullari said. "It's kind of in-between. But it has been second to our White on White as our best-selling wine."

The couple opens their tasting room Thursdays through Sundays. It's still not completely a full-time job, as Sal continues to do work related to his position as a member of the state Board of Psychology. Nor is running the winery easy.

"It's fun; it's enjoyable," he said, "but it's a lot of work. I don't think most people realize how much work it is. I mean, going on vacation is a challenge because you have to spray every week. It's not as romantic as it's portrayed on TV."

But it still beats what he was doing full time and, with each passing year, word about the winery is spreading.

"When they come to us and they taste our wine, I can count on my fingers [the number of times] that they don't like any of our wines or don't buy [a bottle] when they leave. And then the word spreads."

Cullari Vineyards & Winery, 1251 E. Chocolate Ave., Hershey, 717-533-8985, cullarivineyards.samsbiz.com



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Lentils for Lent

Beats tuna salad any Friday.

Rosemary Ruggieri Baer

When I was growing up, Fridays at our house were pretty grim from a culinary perspective.

As Catholics, we practiced the ritual of meatless Fridays, now observed by most Catholics only in Lent. Occasionally we had fish, mostly flounder as the Farmers Market in those days lacked the variety of fish available today.

Sometimes, my mother cooked chickpeas, which we called "cecis", mixed with some small pasta. Then there was the tuna salad, disliked by my father because it contained mayonnaise. My father hated mayonnaise, and sometimes my mother would say there "wasn't any in there." He still pushed the tuna salad around his plate. And he knew.

But my mother's favorite Friday meal was lentils. She cooked them plainly in water with a little chopped onion and often added some elbow macaroni. We ate the cooked lentils in bowls drizzled with a little olive oil. Along with a salad and some bread, it was our dinner. Now, no one I knew ate like that, and it was not my favorite meal. But as an adult, I have made my peace with lentils and have grown fond of them.

In recent years, lentils have made their way into recipes for many wonderful dishes, including those found at "gourmet" restaurants. I remember the first time I saw "braised lamb shanks with lentils" being served at a high-priced restaurant and laughed at how far the lowly lentil had come.

Lentils are actually the seeds of the lentil plant, thought to have its origins in the Middle East. But lentils were part of early Roman, Greek, Indian and Hebrew cuisines, as well. The Old Testament Book of Genesis teaches us about the brothers, Jacob and Esau. Esau, the firstborn, is said to have sold his birthright to Jacob for some lentil stew.

Lentils make wonderful soups in winter and cold salads in summer. They range in color from the traditional brown most commonly

found in grocery stores, to red, green and yellow. Lentils have no fat and are high in protein, vitamins and minerals. They're a great addition to a meatless meal in Lent or anytime.

My favorite lentil dish is a pasta recipe from my weathered copy of Elisa Celli's "Italian Light Cooking" (1987). It is called "Pasta Lenticce Sylvestro" or "Pasta with Lentils and Vegetables," which the author calls a "very high energy dish." Today, we would say it is full of "complex carbs." Try it before your next marathon!

Pasta with Lentils and Vegetables

1 cup chopped onion
2 tbsp. good olive oil
½ lb. small pasta, like ditalini
4 cloves of crushed garlic
8 oz. dried lentils, washed and drained
½ cup diced celery
1 tsp. Italian seasoning
¼ cup Parmesan cheese
1 cup diced carrots
2 cups chicken or vegetable broth
¼ tsp. crushed red pepper
1 cup chopped Italian parsley

The evening before preparing this dish, wash the lentils, place in a bowl and cover with fresh cold water. It only takes a minute to do this, so don't skip this important step. When ready to start cooking, drain the lentils in a strainer.

In a large skillet, sauté the onion, garlic, celery, carrots and crushed red pepper in the oil for 5 minutes. Add the lentils, Italian herb seasoning, the stock or broth and parsley. Cover and cook over medium heat for about 20 minutes. Taste to see if the lentils are cooked to your taste and degree of firmness.

While the lentils are cooking, boil the salted water to cook the pasta. When the pasta is cooked, drain it in a colander and add it to the lentil mixture in the skillet. Toss well to incorporate all the ingredients. Sprinkle freshly grated Parmesan cheese over all and mix again. Serve immediately.

If you have any pasta left over from dinner, sprinkle it with a little red wine or balsamic vinegar, some extra salt and pepper, and you will

have a perfect pasta and lentil salad for lunch.

Peggy Harder, of Peggy's Silver Spoon at the West Shore Farmers Market, sells many different kinds of lentils, beans, pastas and grains. Yellow lentils, paired with some smoky bacon or ham, make a beautiful soup. Try the green ones with grilled chicken and fresh basil vinaigrette in the summer. Red lentils, perhaps spiced with curry, could be served with pork for an Indian touch.

I hope you will give these unique little beans a try. They are a great option for lunch or dinner when meat is not on the menu. And definitely better than tuna salad!



Rosemary Ruggieri Baer, a first generation Italian-American, grew up in Harrisburg and has spent her life perfecting her mother's country cooking.

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Evolution of an Artist

Cheryl Piperberg started as an illustrator. Today, she sees art everywhere, in everything.

Lawrance Binda



An artist and her work: Cheryl Piperberg with an array of her brightly colored, fanciful objects.

It may be no great insight to say that, in general, the work of artists reflects their personalities.

For Cheryl Piperberg, that observation is clearly true. Her art is colorful, varied and spirited, as is her character. Her creations emit an engagement with life that is both uplifting and experimental.

"I think that my work is always about inspiring people," she said. "Everything I do is made for people to enjoy."

Piperberg is the resident artist at Arts at 510, a gallery directly across N. 3rd Street from the Capitol complex that has become a key link in Harrisburg's emerging arts scene.

"I knew Cheryl for years because

she used to show her work at my in-laws' gallery (the former William Ris Gallery in Camp Hill)," said Susan Schreckengaust, owner of Arts at 510. "So, when I opened my own business, she was an obvious choice to become my resident artist."

Walking into the gallery, one immediately notices a wide variety of high-quality art: from jewelry to stained glass, from paintings

to sculpture and more. It's a good bet that, when you see something that's a bit whimsical, a bit different and brilliantly colored, it will have been crafted by Piperberg.

A Harrisburg native, Piperberg has been surrounded by art all her life. Her parents owned a frame shop in Lancaster, and, after earning a fine arts degree, she became an illustrator, eventually starting the Children's Poster Company, which became a commercial success.

She still sells her posters (in fact, she was startled recently to learn that two of her posters were clearly visible in a recent scene from the TV sitcom "The Office"). Today, though, she has mostly moved away from



One of Piperberg's brilliantly detailed mandalas.

creates fine art prints from a digital source, such as an ink-jet printer. A mandala is an art object in a circular or concentric design, inspired by Buddhist philosophy. Notably, one of her commissioned mandalas—an illustration of the Book of Genesis—now hangs in Temple Ohev Sholom, a synagogue on N. Front Street.

But, as she thinks about it some more, she realizes that those aren't *really* her only loves these days. She also loves creating painted furniture and portraits and collages and dolls and drawings, examples of which can be found at Arts at 510. She moves fluidly from one medium to another, going wherever her curiosity, restlessness and endless imagination take her.

Her work does tend to share one feature—it often is spiritual in nature (even if not specifically religious) and a celebration of life. In addition to mandalas, Piperberg lately has been creating blessing bowls—terra cotta bowls that she hand paints, into which one can place messages, prayers and blessings. She also has been making magic wands, which she paints, embroiders and otherwise decorates according to her fancy.

So how has she come to do so many different types of work in so many different styles and media?

"It's hard to say where the ideas come from," she said. "They just come."

poster art and on to—well, just about everything else.

Recently, she explains, she has two main loves: giclée and mandalas. Giclée is a relatively new process that



Midtown Life

Lawrance Binda

It was March 2009. The stock market was crashing. The world seemed poised for another Great Depression. And what was happening in Midtown Harrisburg?

Businesses were opening. One year ago this month, two enterprising souls cast aside the gut-wrenching gloom and opened shop a few blocks from each other on N. 3rd Street.

Christina Heintzelman-Jones unlocked the doors to her snug, well-appointed art gallery, Gallery Blu, while John Traynor brought the first acts up onto Stage on Herr at his Midtown Arts Center.

And that was just the beginning. All year long, businesses opened in Midtown, mostly along the reviving 3rd Street corridor: Midtown Scholar Bookstore, the HodgePodgery, Blue Horse Denim, Café di Luna, breads 'n spreads, The Soup Spot. Even HACC moved its main administrative offices to the area, while GreenWorks Development continued its march of high-end renovation up and down the avenue.

As importantly, each of these new businesses brought an elevated sense of quality and style. In just a year or so, they've upped the level of what we can expect in Harrisburg, whether it's in the realm of art, food, music, coffee, apparel or just a well-made cocktail. They've delivered a degree of excellence and sophistication that, until now, has too often been reserved for larger, more cosmopolitan areas.

So, please take a moment to digest just how incredible this past year has been. For the country, it's been a time to lock down, draw the curtains and pray for better. A few locals took the other side of that bet, and, as a result, things haven't been this good in Midtown in years.

Happy Anniversary, Christina and John. And thanks to all the farsighted merchants who are transforming this neighborhood into something truly special.

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Four Musicians and a Funeral

The art of music lives, walks among us with The Greatest Funeral Ever.

Lawrance Binda



The fun in funeral: A full house was brought to life recently at Stage on Herr.

In its brief history as a band, The Greatest Funeral Ever has stuck pretty close to home. Except for the occasional out-of-area festival, this quartet of talented musicians has played gigs mostly around their home base in New Cumberland.

Recently, they brought their unique blend of Latin jazz fusion—with some rock and R&B tossed into the mix—to Harrisburg's Stage on Herr. The place was packed, the audience alternating between rapt listening and, when the beat picked up, a bit of Latin-style dancing near the stage.

Two songs in, a listener could understand what had the audience so engaged. Band members are all veteran musicians (Mike McGowan on guitar and percussion, Ben Kiner on keyboards, Eli Huebner on bass and Curtis Smith on drums), and their music demonstrated a sense of professionalism and sophistication that only comes through years of dedication to craft.

In the course of the evening, the band played through its thumping, percussion-heavy debut CD, "High Moon Cold Night."

Greatest Funeral's crisp sound was particularly evident on "King

Red," a song that uniquely blends Latin syncopation with a dominant, clean guitar reminiscent of early 1960s rock. Other cuts had a more bluesy feel ("Bumpin' a Row") and some just dove right down into the funk ("Brown Chicken Cow Cow"). In a mark of quality songcraft, the band ably varied its pieces, while retaining a certain integrated sound throughout the night.

Who could predict that, today, a jazz fusion band that plays original, instrumental music could leave them standing in the aisle in a mid-sized venue like Stage on Herr? But that's what happened. Certainly, group members deserve the credit, but maybe it says something encouraging about the musical palette around Harrisburg, as well.

Going forward, Greatest Funeral expects to branch out, booking gigs and reaching new audiences throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic. All the luck to them, but let's hope they don't stay away too long from their home in central PA.

The Greatest Funeral Ever is scheduled to appear March 12 at Pep Grill, 209 Walnut St., Harrisburg, and March 20 at Malone's, 6200 Derry St., Harrisburg.

www.thegreatestfuneralever.com

Inspiration, Instruction

Youth Ballet brings acclaimed dancers to central Pennsylvania.

Peter Durantine

For more than half a century, the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet has brought in guest artists from around the country to perform, teach and talk to students about their pursuits in dance.

Keeping with that tradition, the ballet launched a new program this year, the Masters Series, which was conducted for three days in early February and featured Julie Kent, the principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre in New York.

Kent, who is internationally acclaimed and began at the theatre as an apprentice in 1985, shared her experiences as a dancer with the ballet's more than 200 students who "were just captivated" by her, said Bonnie Schulte, the ballet's spokeswoman.

The ballet wants the Masters Series to be an experience not only for its students, but also for those who are unfamiliar with dance yet want to gain a deeper artistic understanding.

The ballet's chief executive officer, Alan Hinline, said the Series is intended to bring more awareness to the community

about the art form and the school, a nonprofit that was founded in 1955.

"Master Series allows us to showcase the highest professional caliber of instruction while introducing students, friends and supporters to some of the great artists of today," said Hinline. "We're really a civic organization."



Julie Kent, dancing with American Ballet Theatre.

The Central PA Youth Ballet is based in Carlisle. It is the Resident Ballet Company of the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts and is honored as the only pre-professional school in the country licensed to perform George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker." For more information, call 717-245-1190 or visit www.cpyb.org.

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Time to Thaw Out with Music, Crafts

The snow's over, right? Last month, a bunch of terrific events were frozen out by the succession of winter storms. So here's to a warmer month ahead, one in which great outings won't get buried under a big pile of snow.

In March, several national acts are winging their way into town. Personally, I'd recommend checking out Harpeth Rising (**Stage on Herr**, March 4), Cursive (**Appalachian Brew**, March 10), Girlyman (**Midtown Scholar**, March 12) and David Garrett (**Whitaker Center**, March 30)—but that's just me. Scan the band listings on these pages and find something that suits your taste.

Do you prefer your bands to be local? It's a feast nearly every night. But be sure to make it to **Midtown Tavern**, which is beginning "Live Music Saturdays" on March 13. The venerable pub has a new sound and acoustic system to complement the blues and jazz bands it's booking.

Theater-wise, the **Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival** brings to stage "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," a romp through the bard's many plays. Over at Rose Lehrman, **HACC TheatreWorks** puts on its semi-annual production, tackling the controversial work, "Agnes of God." And, in a March tradition, **Open Stage of Harrisburg** shows "The Diary of Anne Frank" for one day.

As usual, Harrisburg's galleries are packed with fine art, but why not see what the folks next door are up to? This month, **Gallery Blu** is showing "Art of the Neighborhood," while the **Susquehanna Art Museum** features works of budding artists from the area's high schools.

Maybe you'd rather create than view the creations of others? Then head to the **HodgePodgery**, one very cool crafts center in Midtown. The mother/daughter team of Dawn and Jessica host classes in everything from sewing to knitting to jewelry-making and more. Want to make a Byzantine-style bracelet, a heart charm, a sock monkey? Now you can! The month's class schedule is at www.thehodgepodgery.com.

—Lawrance Binda

Museums & Art Spaces

Art Association of Harrisburg

21 N. Front St., Harrisburg
717-236-1432; www.artassocofhbg.com

"Invitational Exhibit," featuring four diverse artists: photographer Evelyn Burton of Harrisburg; dyed silk artist Sun-Na Jung of South Korea; abstract painter Donna McGee of Maryland; and watercolorist Lauren Mulhern of Chadd's Ford, through March 25.

ArtHouse Lounge

217 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-236-2550; www.arthouselounge.com

Twelve new artists are featured in March.

Arts at 510

510 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-724-0364; www.artsat510.com

Woodblock prints by Dan Clarke, opens for 3rd in The Burg, March 19. Exhibit shows through April 13.

ArtTalk by Selby Doughty. The topic is "pop art." Learn about the artists who define that genre. March 23, 6–8 p.m. Free.

Gallery Blu

1633 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-234-3009; www.galleryblu.org

"Art of the Neighborhood," featuring works of local artists. Artist's reception, March 19, 7–9 p.m. (coincides with 3rd in The Burg). Music by Drake.

Harsco Science Center

Whitaker Center, 222 Market St., Harrisburg
717-214-ARTS; www.whitakercenter.org

"Tech City," a fun and interactive exhibit about engineering that features 12 activity stations.

Midtown Scholar/Yellow Wall Gallery

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-236-1680; www.midtownscholar.com

"Summer in Winter: A Visual Escape," group art exhibit, through March 26. Artists' reception for 3rd in The Burg, March 19, 6–9 p.m.

National Civil War Museum

One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir, Harrisburg
717-260-1861; nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

"Spies Among Us" focuses on efforts to form spy networks on both sides, through Sept. 6.

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

176 Water Company Rd., Millersburg
717-692-3699; www.nedsmithcenter.org

"Fragile Nature," a photo exhibit by National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore, through June 13.

Radius Gallery

300 North St., Harrisburg
717-787-5590; www.radiusgallery.com

Featured showcase: "Pysanky: Ukrainian Egg Decorating," March 1–April 30.

Featured craftsman: Genevieve Williamson, of New Freedom, jewelry/polymer clay, through March. Open house: March 7, 1–3 p.m.

Rose Lehrman Art Gallery

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg
www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter

"Home Is Where One Starts From," landscape paintings by Jim Condron, through March 5.

Chaz Maviyane-Davies posters. Lecture and reception, March 18, 5:30 p.m.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania

300 North St., Harrisburg
717-787-4980; www.statemuseumpa.org

"Voices: African American and Latina Women Share Their Stories of Success," featuring 50 accomplished women, through March 7.

"Tusks! Ice Age Mammoths and Mastodons," through May 2.

"Wind Titans," a photo essay by State Museum photographer Don Giles, through May 2.

"1780 Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery Exhibit," an exhibit examining the first such legislation in America, through June 20.

"The Fine Art of Giving," a selection of artwork given to the museum, through June 30.

Susquehanna Art Museum

301 Market St., Harrisburg
717-233-8668; www.sqart.org

"Artistic Expressions," the works of exemplary student artists from secondary schools throughout central Pennsylvania, March 3–April 25.

Doshi Gallery: "Elevations," oil paintings by Mary Hochendoner, through April 3.

3rd in The Burg: Friday, March 19

Have you missed out on 3rd in The Burg so far? Would you just like more? Your chance comes on March 19, with the following venues and events:

ArtHouse Lounge—Exhibit features 12 new artists, plus on-site caricatures by Neil McMillin, 6–9 p.m. 217 N. 2nd St.

Arts at 510—Woodblock prints by Dan Clarke, music by 5:10 Express, 5:10–7:10 p.m. 510 N. 3rd St.

Gallery Blu—"Art of the Neighborhood," featuring works of local artists. Artists' reception, music by Drake, 7–9 p.m. 1633 N. 3rd St.

HMAC Stage on Herr—Music by Colebrook Road, plus original artwork on display. Open 5 p.m.–2 a.m. 268 Herr St.

The HodgePodgery—Caricatures by Lindsey McClellan, 6–9 p.m. Call to reserve your spot! 1100 N. 3rd St.

Mangia Qui—Photographs by Matthew Murray and a special \$5 Velvet Underground drink, 5–10 p.m. 272 North St.

Midtown Scholar—First event: a coffee cupping at noon; second event: a reception for "Summer in Winter: A Visual Escape," 6–10 p.m. 1302 N. 3rd St.

SPRAMA.design—"Urban Boulevard" a collection of urban-inspired art and photography. 6–9 p.m. 308 N. 2nd St.

3rd in The Burg is a monthly, must-attend event featuring art, music and more at numerous venues around Harrisburg. For more information, please check out our back cover or 3rdinTheBurg.com.

The Egg Hunt Is On

Children will be scrambling for colorful eggs on March 28 at the 74th Annual Volunteers of America Capitol Egg Hunt.

Children, ages 1–10, and their parents are invited to this free event.

Festivities start at 1 p.m. and the egg hunt begins at 2 p.m. on the south lawn of the State Capitol.

In addition to hunting candy-filled plastic eggs, children will receive a new book and will get a chance to meet the Easter bunny.

For more information, call Volunteers of America at 236-1440.



Kids flocked to last year's egg hunt.

Live Music around Harrisburg

Appalachian Brewing Co./Abbey Bar

50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg
717-221-1083; www.abcbrew.com

March 5: The April Skies w/Metropolis and The Illuminati

March 6: Boro Boogie Pickers

March 10: Cursive w/In Wilderness and Caveman

March 12: Scythian

March 13: Martini Brothers

March 19: Toubab Krewe w/The Heavy Pets

March 20: Mightychondria

March 25: Lloyd Dobler Effect w/guests

March 26: Fink's Constant

March 27: The Badlees w/The Jellybricks, Darcie Miner and Pan.A.Ce.A

Carley's Ristorante Piano Bar

204 Locust St., Harrisburg
717-909-9191; www.carleysristorante.com

March 4: Anthony Haubert

March 5: Wade Preston

March 6: Anthony Haubert

March 10: Joel Toluba

March 11: Giovanni Traino

March 12: Ted Ansel

March 13: Noel Gevers

March 18: Noel Gevers

March 19: Chris Novak

March 20: Ted Ansel

March 25: Giovanni Traino

March 26: Anthony Haubert

March 27: Chris Novak

Every Tuesday, Open Mic Night

Ceoltas Irish Pub

310 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-233-3202; www.ceoltasirishpub.com

March 5: Coast Is Clear

March 6: Goodbye Horses

March 12: Shortbus Heroes

March 13: The Whitebread Band

March 17: Live Irish music

March 19: The Luv Gods

March 20: The Kenton Shelly Band

March 26: Asking Andy

March 27: Smooth Like Clyde

Char's Bella Mundo

540 Race St., Harrisburg
717-213-4002; www.charsbellamundo.com

"Jazz Wednesdays," with special wine menu

Dragonfly Club

234 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
866-468-7619; www.dragonflyclub.com

March 5: J. Roddy Waltson & The Business w/ Pawnshop Roses

March 10: The Ataris and Don't Panic

March 12: Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and Funktion

March 13: La Nueva Potencia

H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center

Shippensburg University; 717-477-7469
www.luhrscenter.com

March 23: Leahy

March 27: Etta May & Southern Fried Chicks

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

The Forum, 5th & Walnut streets, Harrisburg
717-545-5527; www.harrisburgsymphony.org

March 13-14: "Time for Three"

March 26: "Young Person's Concert"

March 27-28: "Music of Myth & Magic"

Hilton Harrisburg and Towers

1 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg

Solo jazz piano in the bar Tuesday through Saturday evenings

Hollywood Casino at Penn National

777 Hollywood Blvd., Grantville, Pa.
877-565-2112; www.hcpn.com

March 5: Luv Gods

March 6: Don Johnson Project Band

March 12: Marshall's Highway

March 13: Cruise Control

March 19: Uptown Band

March 20: Category 5

March 26: Pentagon

March 27: Bunchafunk

Mangia Qui/Suba

272 North St., Harrisburg
717-233-7358; www.mangiaqui.com

March 5: Alexandra Day hosts Philadelphia Songwriters

March 6: Margy Finnegan and Kenny Bourbon

March 12: Nate Myers and The Aces

March 13: Flamenco in The States

March 19: Drake

March 20: Sonja Bontrager and Marc Lomax

March 26: Reese and Wendy

March 27: Batida

Market Square Concerts

717-221-9588; marketsquareconcerts.org

March 24: Claire Chase and Jacob Greenberg (at the Whitaker Center)

Midtown Arts Center/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg
717-441-7506; www.harrisburgarts.com

March 4: Harpeth Rising

March 5: Goat Ropin' Bastards

March 6: Darcie Miner Band

March 7: Imitation #9

March 11: Fink's Constant

March 12: Adam Taylor

March 13: Waitin' on a Train

March 18: Adam's Ghost w/The Jelly Bricks

March 19: Colebrook Road

March 20: TBA

March 25: Chasing Darwin

March 26: Yarn

March 27: Jump the Gun (CD release party)

Every Wednesday: Open Mic Night

Midtown Scholar/Famous Reading Café

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-236-1680; www.midtownscholar.com

March 6: Seasons

March 12: Girlyman

March 27: American Dollar

Midtown Tavern

1101 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-236-7583; www.themidtowntavern.com

March 13: The Porkroll Project

March 20: Octavia & Earthblood Blues Band

March 27: Jay Umble Jazz Guitar Duo

Every Tuesday: Open Mic Night

Morgan's Place

4425 N. Front St., Harrisburg
717-234-8103; www.morgans-place.com

March 5: Kings & Queens

March 6: Phipps & Friends

March 12: Shea Quinn & Swish Dog

March 13: Don Johnson Project Band

March 17: South Street

March 19: Strange Eden

March 20: New Experience

March 26: Shea Quinn & Swish Dog

March 27: Ross Brown Band

Music on Market Street

1508 Market St. Harrisburg
717-564-4761; www.harrisburguu.org

March 19: Bulgarian Blues

Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg
717-231-ROSE; www.liveatroselehrman.org

March 19: "Fiddles on Fire," by Barrage

March 20: Concertante

Stock's on 2nd

211 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-233-6699; www.stocksonsecond.com

March 6: Cruise Control

March 13: Shea Quinn and Steve Swisher

March 20: Funktion w/ Robin McClellan

March 27: Don Johnson Project Band

The Stage Door

H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center

Shippensburg University; 717-477-7469
www.luhrscenter.com

The Peking Acrobats, March 2

"The Pirates of Penzance," March 18

HACC TheatreWorks

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg
717-231-ROSE; www.liveatroselehrman.org

"Agnes of God," March 5-7

Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg
717-238-4111; www.gamutplays.org

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," Feb. 26-March 13

Hershey Area Playhouse

Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive, Hershey
717-838-8164; hersheyareaplayhouse.com

No shows scheduled for March.

Open Stage of Harrisburg

223 Walnut St., Harrisburg
717-214-ARTS; www.openstagehb.com

"The Diary of Anne Frank," March 13

Whitaker Center

222 Market St., Harrisburg
717-214-ARTS; www.whitakercenter.org

March 14: Cara

March 20: Anita Renfroe (at The Forum)

March 26: "Come Together" w/The Peter

Mayer Group

March 30: David Garrett

Other Highlights

March 4: Estamos Unidos Scholarship Dinner. Annual dinner benefits the group's scholarship fund. Hershey Lodge, 6-9 p.m. estamosunidospa.org

March 6-14: Pennsylvania Home Show. Annual show is devoted to everything about your home. PA Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. pahomeshow.com

March 8: Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC Annual Dinner. Chamber of Commerce holds its annual dinner and program. Hilton Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m. harrisburgregionalchamber.org

March 9: Second Tuesdays at Seven. "A Conversation with Mary S. Beatty." Harris/Cameron Mansion, 219 S. Front St., Harrisburg. 7 p.m. Free. dauphincountyhistory.org

March 20: St. Patrick's Day Parade. The annual parade winds its way through downtown. 2 p.m. harrisburgirishparade.com

March 28: Dauphin County Egg Hunt. Thousands of plastic eggs will be filled with candy for children to find. Ages 2-9. Fort Hunter Park, 2-5 p.m. Free. forhunter.org

Oyster Mill Playhouse

1001 Oyster Mill Road, Camp Hill
717-737-6768; www.oystermill.com

"Murder by Appointment," March 5-21

Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg
717-238-4111; www.gamutplays.org

"Beauty and the Beast," March 17-April 3

Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg
717-231-ROSE; www.liveatroselehrman.org

"Goodnight Moon" and "The Runaway Bunny," by Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, March 14.

Koresh Dance Company, March 17

Theatre Harrisburg

Sunoco Performance Theater, Whitaker Center
222 Market St., Harrisburg

717-214-ARTS; www.theatreharrisburg.com

No shows scheduled for March.

Don't Swallow the Oscar Hype

Be extra-discriminating during awards season.

Kevyn Knox

The beginning of each cinematic year brings two things. First and foremost (at least as far as the studios are concerned) are the Oscars. Along with the myriad other award shows out there, the Oscars fill the theaters with Oscar bait movie after Oscar bait movie after Oscar bait movie. From the overblown, artistic atrocity called "Avatar" to the more intimate (and better) films such as "An Education" and "Crazy Heart," and all the inevitable awards fodder mediocrities in-between.

This inundation by the studios and distributors ends up leading into the other thing that the beginning of each cinematic year brings us—the excess garbage of Hollywood. Not wanting to compete with their high-profile Oscar pictures, the studios will release all the otherwise un-releasable movies they have lying around. In other words, whatever they have no faith in, they will just toss onto multiplex screens, while spending all their ad money on promoting their Oscar

hopefuls. It is sort of a wasteland of unwanted releases.

Alas, this does lead to a lot of crap hitting screens from January through March of each year—even more so than what we normally get from that Southern Cal moviemaking Mecca. Luckily, a few good films sneak into theaters. First and foremost among these is the latest work from European provocateur Michael Haneke. After making audiences squirm in their collective seats with such past fare as "Funny Games," "The Piano



Teacher" and "Cache," Haneke is back again with what might very well be his most outwardly gorgeous film to date. Though be warned, as beautifully filmed as "The White Ribbon" may be (and it certainly is), it is still a harrowing experience to behold—

just as Haneke likes it.

Set in 1913, just on the verge of World War I, in a small village in rural Germany, Haneke's sharply focused black and white film weaves itself around the mysteries of seemingly ritual torture and sadistic pranks. Within the insular "walls" of this rural village, where children rebel against the iron-fisted rule of their stern parents, Haneke has woven an intense and powerful film, not only about who or what is causing these recurring atrocities, but also about the relationship between generations and the inability to breathe in such a stifling society. The further one delves into Haneke's picture, the less is one fascinated by the mystery as much as by the strange interplay between the people of this village of the damned.

Another film worth mentioning is one of those aforementioned Oscar hopefuls. No, not the CGI blunderbuss "Avatar" (why people are driven to this ludicrous cartoon thing is beyond this critic). I am talking about "Crazy Heart."

The film, sort of a country music version of "The Wrestler," may be the one that finally wins Jeff Bridges his long overdue Oscar. Easily one of our best actors, Bridges plays Bad Blake, a down-and-out country music star—and he plays him with that certain subtle verve one has come to expect from Bridges. Often overlooked in his career—his acting is so realistic, a lot of the time one forgets that the man is acting—this could be (and should be) Bridges' year to take home the gold.

Well, that's it for this time. I'll be back again with a look at some more new releases hitting Harrisburg in the upcoming (and not fast enough) spring. Until then, here's hoping "Avatar" doesn't steal the Oscar away from its rightful owner, "The Hurt Locker." Now go watch some movies—I know I will.



Kevyn Knox is a film critic + historian. His reviews can be read at thecinematheque.com.

Pa. Wines: Judging's Over, Winners Named

Averill Shepps

Eight years ago, the Pennsylvania Wine Society decided to support Pennsylvania wineries by holding a judging of wines that are made from the better wine grapes—grapes grown on vinifera stock with the addition of Chambourcin, a grape that does well in Pennsylvania.

The competition has a different focus from others in the state, not only because of the limited grapes allowed but also because it is done by wine consumers. The PWS Board of Trustees does the judging with the guidance of Gary Pavlis of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service, a respected wine judge and

teacher. After the wines are scored, the Board holds a public tasting to honor the top scorers and presents a plaque to the winery that made the highest-scoring wine.

Eight years of judging has proved that Pennsylvania's wines have been improving every year. If you haven't tried them recently, you need to. Mark Chien, Wine Grape Agent for the Penn State Extension Service, spoke of the improvement in the wines and how the winemakers are becoming more skilled at dealing with the variations in the grapes each year.

In the early years, there would be 40-50 people in attendance at the tasting. But this year, much

to the delight of PWS, there were more than 80 people. There was a buzz in the air; there was a sense of anticipation as attendees sat in front of 11 glasses and began sipping each wine while listening to the speakers. The winner of the plaque for the highest scoring wine was the 2007 Chambourcin from Chaddsford.

But every wine was a winner. All of the wines in this year's group are red. Top 10 runners up to the Chaddsford Chambourcin were: Allegro's Bridge 2007 and Cadenza 2007; Chaddsford Pinot Noir 2007; Galen Glen Cabernet Franc 2007; Manatawny Creek's Cabernet Franc 2007 and Merlot

2007; Pinnacle Ridge's Chambourcin 2008 and Veritas 2007; Presque Isle's Blaufrankish NV and Merlot 2007. The Honorable Mention Category included: Allegro Cabernet Sauvignon 2007; Arrowhead Riesling NV; Blair Pinot Noir 2008; Chaddsford Merlot 2007, Portfolio 2007, Rubina 2007, Syrah 2007; Manatawy Creek Cabernet Blend 2007; Presque Isle Cabernet Franc 2007.

For those not at the tasting, Slow Food Harrisburg will be presenting a dinner at Harrisburg Area Community College on April 30 that will feature wines from Chaddsford with a menu based on grass-fed beef.

Spring Dog Cleaning

Time to begin prepping your pet for warmer weather.

Todd Rubey, DVM

Spring is on its way, despite what Phil has to say (and with all those lights on him how can he not see his shadow?). So it is time to start thinking about getting our furry friends out of their winter laziness and back into the swing of things. Cabin fever affects animals, too.

There are several things we as pet owners have to think about as the weather begins to warm up. First, how out of shape did Fido get over these last few months? It's very common for pets, especially dogs, to gain a significant amount of weight over the winter due to lack of activity, as well as over-feeding. This excess weight needs to be worked off during the spring. It's important to gradually increase activity over time to allow your pet to increase its stamina. We would do this for ourselves, but I see way too many dogs for fatigue or muscle/ligament injuries because owners allow them to do too much too quickly, or worse, expect them to be able to go as long and hard as they did back in September.

Secondly, it's important to think about your pet's grooming. Most dogs develop a thick winter coat to keep warm. Not a lot of folks think to bathe or brush their pets during the winter as often, and they tend to get very dirty and matted.

Proper grooming not only makes your pet look and smell nice, but it's also much healthier. Matted hair irritates and can harbor nasty bacteria that not only affect the skin but can become a systemic problem, if left unchecked. Heavy winter coats can cause problems as it gets warmer, if

the animal is not properly brushed and the hair managed. The thick undercoat that develops over winter doesn't shed as easily, which is nice for the furniture and carpets but can be very bad for the animal.

It's also time to start thinking about parasite prevention. Fleas and ticks will start showing up before you know it. Most people take the winter off when it comes to parasite prevention, which is not a bad thing. The problem lies when you forget to restart until you see a flea on your pet come May.

By that time, thousands of eggs already have started hatching and infecting not only Fido and Fluffy, but your house and you. Start your monthly treatments now, before the vicious cycle starts. Also pre-treat the environment. Clean your yard of excrement that has hidden under the snow. Get an area flea treatment for your home that can kill off any eggs or larvae that hibernated through the winter.

Springtime is also the start of allergy season. Many people forget that allergies affect our pets, as well as ourselves. All the pollen and pretty spring flowers can wreak

havoc on our furry friends. Pets tend to be more affected in their skin than their nose. More dogs and cats get itchy and lose their hair rather than become stuffy and unable to breathe. Those of you with pets that have chronic skin allergies know too well the suffering that your pet goes through. There is no cure for allergies. We can only hope to minimize the body's response.

Having your pet allergy-tested is one way to do this—and now is a good time. It's very difficult to get a patient off allergy medications like steroids and antibiotics once they start. In order to successfully allergy-test, the patient has to be off all medications for two to three weeks prior to the test. If Fido has not been on any medications over the winter, it would be a good idea to test him. We then can develop an allergy serum and start allergy injections, just like in people.

Most of us look forward to springtime. I miss throwing the ball with my dog (and my kids). I look forward to

saying, "Wanna go for a walk?" and watching my dog bounce around with excitement as she goes to look for her leash. Just remember to think ahead and take a few extra steps to ensure your pets' safety and health, as well as your own. Happy spring.



Todd Rubey, DVM, a veterinarian for 12 years, works for the Colonial Park Animal Clinic.

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Taxing Matters

Tackling that 1040? A little guidance may help.

Corinne Rebinski

Personal tax returns not filed yet? Here are a few tips and reminders to help minimize your tax bill and avoid last minute panic.

The "Making Work Pay" Tax Credit: Most wage earners can receive a refundable tax credit of \$400 in 2009. Refundable tax credits pay you cash back if they exceed your taxes. Claim the credit by completing 1040 Schedule M.

Enhanced Education Credits: Changes in tax law created the American Opportunity Credit. This partially refundable tax credit, up to a maximum of \$2,500 per student, is available to more taxpayers and covers more education years and expenses than the former Hope credit. The Lifetime Learning Credit and tuition and fees deductions are also available.

Residential Energy and Energy Efficiency Property Credits: A maximum credit up to \$1,500 is available for qualified energy

efficient improvements to existing homes. The improvements must be Energy Star certified and include such areas as windows, insulation, roofs and HVAC. More generous credits are available for all homes for alternate energy methods such as geothermal and solar.

Child Tax Credit: A maximum tax credit of \$1,000 per child is available for children under the age of 17. Recent tax law changes enable more taxpayers to qualify for the credit.

EITC: Check if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, even if you haven't in the past, especially if you lost your job or took a pay cut during the past year. You don't have to have a child to qualify. The limits have changed and taxpayers earning between \$13,000 and \$48,000 may qualify depending upon filing status and number of qualifying children.

Tax Credits for Home Buyers: If you purchased a qualifying first home in

2009, you can take advantage of this \$8,000 refundable credit. In addition, if you have a binding contract to purchase a home by April 30, 2010, you can qualify for the credit in 2010. This credit opportunity was expanded to include certain long-time homeowners who can qualify for up to a \$6,500 tax credit for new home purchases after Nov. 6, 2009. Keep in mind that most tax credits and special deductions may be phased out for higher income taxpayers. You should discuss these credit opportunities with your tax advisor to maximize the benefits.

Other new tax breaks for 2009 include:

- This year only, you can take a deduction for sales tax paid on most new vehicle purchases.
- Monetary donations for Haiti Relief made between Jan. 12 and March 1, 2010 can be deducted on your 2009 tax return, if you itemize.

- Unemployment benefits up to \$2,400 are tax free.

Most forms and publications can be downloaded from the Internet. Visit the following sites:

- Federal forms: www.irs.gov
- Pennsylvania forms: www.revenue.state.pa.us
- Capital Area Tax Collection Bureau: www.captax.com
- West Shore Tax Bureau: www.westab.org

Want to get that refund as quickly as possible? Try free e-filing. Don't have the time or patience to prepare your own tax return? Hire a local CPA!



Corinne Rebinski is a CPA and senior manager with Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz in Camp Hill.

Post-Recession Investing: Pros Make a Comeback

M. Diane McCormick

"Read the rules, Shankopotamus!"

Those commercials of a baby buying stocks online might give the impression that financial planners have lost business to self-investors during the Great Recession.

But it's not true. One recent national survey found that more than half of retirement planners gained up to 10 new clients in 2009.



Ranker

His firm took on 30 new clients, compared to 14 in 2008.

The economic downturn made many investors realize they need professional guidance, said Taylor K. Ranker II, CFP, of Ranker-Hanshaw Financial Group, Lower Paxton

A quick lesson on financial planners: Some advisors make their money from commissions on the financial products they sell. Others, including all certified financial planners, or CFPs, are "fee-only," making their money on fees paid for services provided.

Ranker said he once gained a client whose previous broker earned \$40,000 just by loading her portfolio with certain technology stocks. Whether those stocks gained or lost value was of no concern to the broker, he said. Ranker's firm, which he and a partner founded after years in commission-based offices, made money off that client when her portfolio made money.

"We're not looking at her like a big juicy steak," he said.

Businessman Andy Orons, 51, hired Ranker-Hanshaw last year after he realized that "self-directed" investing led to big losses in the

economic crash. Conventional brokers weren't any help, either, because they offered many options but not much advice.

"Virtually everything was all about, 'Here's the choices,' but very little was, 'Here's what you should be investing in,'" said Orons.



Newman

Investors sought out new advisors because they sensed that "nothing was done for them during this kind of volatility and unprecedented swings in the market."

Worried investors often got a "stand pat answer" to ride out the

turbulence, when common sense told them that action was needed, Newman said. His firm adjusted portfolios to assure that, even in chaos, funds would keep pointing toward clients' goals and plans.

"To just sit there and take that downturn made absolutely no sense," he said.

Those personal goals—things like planning for the kids' college or a retirement home—also contributed to a closer reliance on financial planners, Newman said.

"As you get closer, retirement becomes less of an academic exercise and more like a real-life scenario," he said.

It's okay to shop around and even change advisors, Ranker said. Ask how they make their money. Look for "experience and character."

"Clearly, Americans are demanding more of their financial advisors," he said.

Up Close and Personal

Outdoor season is near. You'll need a good pair of specs.

Kermit G. Henning

You're planning a caribou hunt to the Canadian tundra or a sheep hunt in the Rockies; you're glassing for antelope in the western grasslands; you're trying to identify the far off ducks flying toward your decoys; or you're scanning the forest treetops for migrating warblers. For each application you need a good pair of binoculars. But will one pair serve every purpose? Is there a single set of optics suited to every need? The answer is an emphatic no!

Binoculars are the world's most used optics, and, while they serve many purposes, choosing the right pair for your particular needs can be confusing. With all the specifications and numbers, how do you know what's right for you?

First of all, let's try to clear up the technical aspects to consider. Typically, binoculars are labeled with two numbers, such as 8X40 or 10X50. The first number is the magnification. In the case of an 8X binocular, the subject looks eight times as large or eight times closer than with the normal eye. With the 10X, the subject seems ten times closer, and so on. While it may seem the more power the better, that's not always the case. The more power you have, the less light that will enter your lens and the less field of view you will have. Also, the higher the power, the less likely it is that you'll be able to hold them steady enough without support. The powerful lens magnifies not only your image, but also every shake and movement in your hands. A 10X lens is about the limit for a steady image in a handheld binocular.

The second number in a binocular, such as the 40 or 50, indicates the diameter of the front lens in millimeters. For this number, bigger is generally better. The larger the lens, the more light enters the binocular, thus making your image brighter. The larger front lens does make the binocular bigger and heavier, though, and should be a

factor in determining when and where you will use them. Hiking with heavy backpacks, camping gear, a rifle and a heavy pair of optics is something to consider.

Another important thing to consider when choosing a binocular is field of view. This simply means how much you will see through the lens. This comes into play depending on how you are going to use them. If you are searching for small birds in a large forest, you want to see as much of the forest as possible, making it easier to locate the birds. On the other hand, if you are looking from one mountain to another for a single sheep, a large field of view is not as necessary as high magnification. Generally, the higher the power, the less the field of view.

Other things to consider include eye relief, exit pupil, prisms, glass, coatings, focal length, waterproof or armor coated, etc.

One simple rule when choosing a pair of optics is to buy the best you can afford. Superior optics will withstand rugged use, give you the clearest and brightest image and keep their resale value. Here are some recommended sizes for various applications. For hunting big game at far off distances, I prefer the 10x40 or 42. For closer applications, I would go with an 8X40 or 42. I always like waterproof binoculars for hunting. In a duck blind or a blizzard, the last thing I want to worry about is my binoculars.

For birding, a 7X or 8X with close-focusing capability is a good choice for closer viewing. Go to a 10X for hawk watching or distant shorebirds. Remember you will be carrying them around your neck for long periods of time—they get heavy as the day goes on. If you will be doing a lot of hiking, a smaller compact model is the best choice, like an 8X25 or 10X25.

Don't forget the youngsters either. A lot of companies make smaller, lighter binoculars, some

with focus-free lenses that are perfect for younger users. The focus-free lenses will not allow you to focus farther than 40 feet or so, but are just the ticket to get kids used to using optics.

Do your homework, talk to other users, compare binoculars at the dealer and get the pair best suited to your needs. A good pair of binoculars can be a lifetime

investment and will greatly enhance your days afield.



Kermit G. Henning, host of abc27 Outdoors TV, is a past president of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association and a member of

the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

Season Kickoff: Harrisburg Stampede Rush into Sophomore Year

Peter Durantine

They came off the first season with a 4-10 record, but the Harrisburg Stampede is looking forward to a stronger second year, as the team heads for a March 6 season opener at the Farm Show Building against the Baltimore Mariners.

That actually wasn't a bad record in the 13-team American Indoor Football Association, as it tied the Stampede for third place in the league's North Division Conference.

The team starts the season with a new wide receiver, Kevin Marion, 25, who played for Wake Forest University. He was scouted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2008 and, last year, played in the Canadian Football League for the Montreal Alouettes.

The team also has signed former Penn State kicker Kevin Kelly, 22, as well as veteran defensive end Otis Young, a 23-year-old Philadelphia native who played for Louisiana's Grambling State University, and, last year, for the Arena 2 Football League's Peoria Pirates.

"We've made a lot of good acquisitions this year," said Stampede General Manager Jeff Mallis, also new to the team. "We expect good things."

Far from being discouraged, Mallis sees last year's record as a signal of the team's potential for the 2010 season.

"For a first-time team in the league, that's fantastic," Mallis said.

Many of last year's players are returning to the 25-man roster this season, including wide receiver and defensive back Archie Smith, who led the team in interceptions with nine, and right back Eugene Goodman, who led last year on offense, scoring 90 points overall.

The team to beat this year in the division and the league is the Reading Express, AIFA's national champions last year.

The Stampede won more games at home last year (three) than away (one). The team's first match with the Express is March 21 on Reading's turf. They meet again for a home game on May 22.

The 14-game indoor football season ends June 26 with the Stampede playing home against the New Jersey Revolution.



The Stampede, in action from last year.

A License for Safety

A few rules before your teen hits the road.

Dr. Deepa Sekhar

"Mom, can I use the car tonight?"

I am in the office with a 16-year-old for a routine physical and to get a driving learner's permit application signed. In most cases, a quick conversation and glance through the chart will solve the medical questions—do they have seizures, uncontrolled diabetes, heart problems that would affect their control of a motor vehicle, etc. However, the real questions and issues I want to address with my teen drivers go far beyond the check-boxes on the form.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 16-to-20 year-olds. Within this age bracket, the youngest drivers are at highest risk. The crash rate for 16-year-olds is 35 crashes per million miles, which is almost nine times the rate of the general population of drivers at four crashes per million miles. There are numerous factors that increase the

risk of an adolescent crash, and the first is inexperience. While teens are supervised during the learner-permit stage, studies have found the risk of a crash is low. It is actually the first month after obtaining a new license when the crash rate is highest. This declines over time with increasing experience.

I have a few rules for my young drivers, which I review with their parents present in the room, so we can be sure everyone is on the same page.

Firstly, teens must agree to always wear a seatbelt. As one might anticipate, research has found that, while 84 percent of all motorists wear seatbelts, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the rate for 16-to-24 year-olds is 77 percent. Seatbelts are 45 percent effective in preventing front-seat fatalities, and our kids should be wearing them, front-seat or back-seat, ALWAYS.

Secondly, minimize distractions. I warn teens about acquiring the bad habits of adults. No cell phones should be used while driving. They should not be adjusting the radio station or the climate controls while driving the car. Select these settings prior to leaving. Additionally, parents should know that the risk of a teen being involved in a crash is directly proportional to the number of additional teenage passengers being transported. This association is not seen with adult drivers. This may be related to the general distraction of having friends in the car, but has also been tied to the encouragement of risky behavior.

Thirdly, nighttime driving is inherently more difficult for all drivers, but, in the case of teens, fatigue and inexperience may be more pronounced. Fatal nighttime crashes involving teenagers are more often associated with multiple teen passengers, speeding and alcohol. The state of Pennsylvania restricts 16- and 17-year-old junior license holders from driving unsupervised between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., but consider, especially in the winter months when it is dark by 6 p.m., that these driving conditions may be equally treacherous for new, inexperienced drivers.

Lastly, the issue of substance abuse is very real. I tell my teens that I would rather have them call their parents intoxicated from a party to be picked up and endure the yelling and embarrassment that may follow than spend months in a hospital bed or in litigation from driving under the influence. I also tell them to call if the friend who is taking them home is unsafe to drive. Many parents will agree to respond to such phone calls in a nonjudgmental manner, as they would rather have their children get home safely. Be aware that even

certain prescription and over-the-counter medications (i.e. allergy medications) may impair driving ability and should be used with caution.

From the parental side, do not be afraid to set rules for your teenage drivers with penalties for failure to follow them. Put your teen in a large and safe recent-model car with good airbags and brakes. Avoid vintage "classic" cars. In fact, the privilege of using a newer and safer car may be balanced by revoking this permission for failure to abide by basic rules you both agree upon.

Obtaining a license is an exciting milestone for teens, but a serious responsibility. Ultimately, we as adults are responsible for teaching our teens how to be safe, conscientious drivers.



Dr. Deepa Sekhar is a pediatrician at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

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From preventative care to surgical procedures

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